

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract of the Disclosure as submitted herewith on a separate unnumbered page.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[[A]] In a method is proposed for regenerating a nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] arranged in an exhaust pipe [[(3)]] of an internal combustion engine, ~~(1)~~. In the method, a constant value is set in a first regeneration phase [[(11)]] for the air/fuel ratio λ_M of the air/fuel mixture fed to the internal combustion engine [[(1)]] when a predetermined triggering threshold value for the nitrogen oxide concentration in the exhaust gas on the output side of the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] is exceeded. The first regeneration phase [[(11)]] is followed by a second regeneration phase, in which ~~(12)~~. According to the invention, in the second regeneration phase ~~(12)~~, the time rate of change $d \lambda_M/dt$ of the air/fuel ratio λ_M is set as a function of the mass flow of the exhaust gas flowing through the nitrogen oxide storage catalytic converter [[(4)]] or as a function of an internal combustion engine operating variable linked with the mass flow of exhaust gas.

Fig. 2.